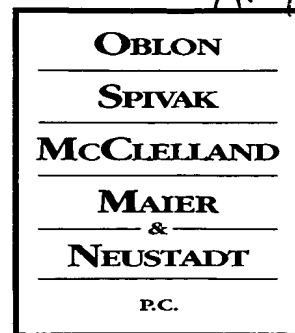


RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
GROUP 1617

DOCKET NO.: 211463US0PCT

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RE: Application Serial No.: 09/913,721

Applicants: Yoshio HIRAKI et al

Filing Date: August 17, 2001

For: SKIN PREPARATIONS FOR EXTERNAL USE

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner: Gina YU

SIR:

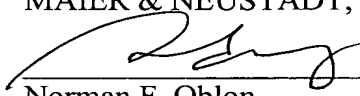
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
WITH ATTACHED MARKED-UP COPY**

Our check in the amount of -0- is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

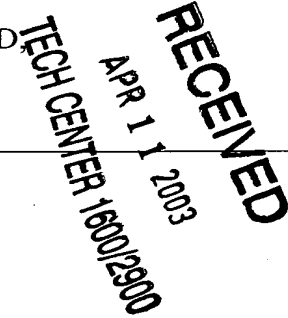

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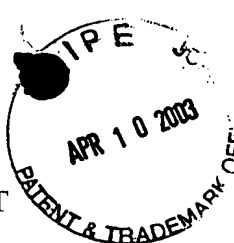


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GROUP 1617"

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H.E.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Yoshio HIRAKI et al

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1617

SERIAL NO.: 09/913,721

: EXAMINER: Gina YU

FILED: August 17, 2001

FOR: SKIN PREPARATIONS FOR EXTERNAL USE

O/C
mp
4/30/03

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

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Responsive to the final Office Action mailed February 12, 2003, please amend the
above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

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gm

1. (Twice Amended) A skin preparation comprising a lamellar structure consisting
essentially of one or more fatty acid monoglyceride(s) as a main component, and one or more
of vitamin A and derivative(s) thereof.

4. (Twice Amended) The skin preparation according to Claim 1, wherein the amounts
of said one or more fatty acid monoglyceride(s) and said one or more vitamin A and
derivative(s) thereof is 2 to 100 parts by weight of said one or more fatty acid
monoglyceride(s) per part by weight of said one or more vitamin A and derivative(s) thereof.